

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 12, 2020

The Honorable José R. Oliva
Speaker
Florida House of Representatives
Tallahassee, FL 32399

The Honorable Kionne McGhee
Minority Leader
Florida House of Representatives
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Speaker Oliva and Minority Leader McGhee:

On October 23, 2019, we and other members of the Florida congressional delegation wrote to you and your counterparts in the Florida Senate to urge that revenue collected in the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Trust Fund be used solely to support affordable housing programs in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and that it not be diverted for other purposes, as has been the all-too-frequent practice.

We want to express our concern about the proposed legislation in the Florida House Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee that shifts \$240 million in Sadowski funds away from affordable housing programs. We respectfully ask that you reconsider this proposed course of action.

As you know, Florida has a severe shortage of affordable housing and nowhere is the problem more acute than the central Florida region. There are simply not enough affordable homes to buy or apartments to rent for the area's growing population.

Given the affordable housing crisis in Florida, we believe there is no reasonable basis to divert revenue collected for the Sadowski Fund to other causes. Affordable housing is far more than what some perceive as "just government-subsidized shelter." The Fund was created to support programs that assist hard-working Floridians to obtain housing through new construction, down-payment assistance, home repairs, and more. It should be used for those purposes.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress